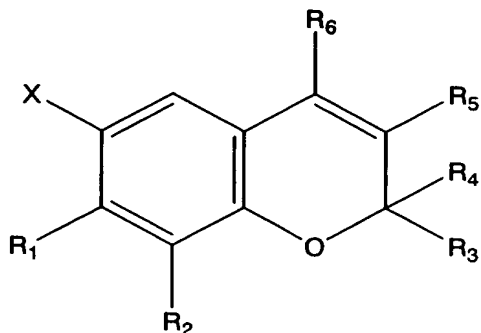


CLAIMS

1. A hair growth stimulant comprising at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.

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2. The hair growth stimulant according to Claim 1, wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

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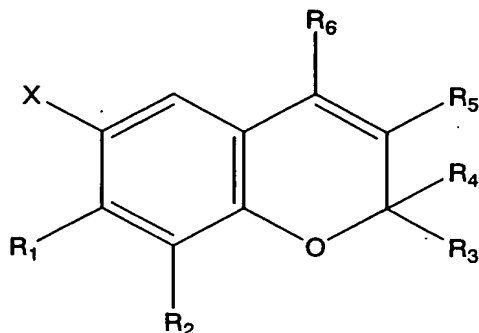
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3. The hair-restoring preparation for external use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

25 4. The hair-restoring preparation for oral use comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

5. The hair-restoring food comprising the hair growth stimulant of Claim 1 or 2.

6. A method for preparing a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient,



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wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an optionally substituted phenyl group; the method comprising steps (i) and (ii):

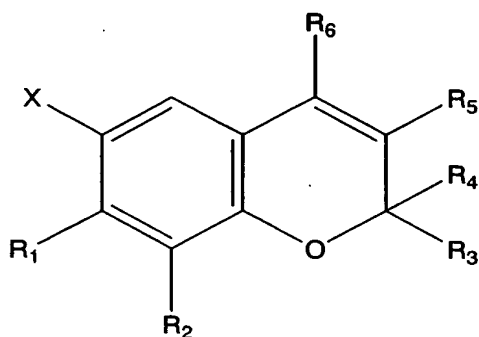
(i) obtaining a chromene compound-containing extract by contacting a solvent with at least one plant selected from the group consisting of plants of the genus *Orthosiphon* in the family Lamiaceae, plants of the genus *Eupatorium* in the family Asteraceae, and plants of the genus *Stevia* in the family Asteraceae; and

(ii) isolating a chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) from the extract obtained in (i).

7. The method for preparing a hair growth stimulant according to Claim 6, wherein the chromene compound represented by Structural Formula (1) is at least one member selected from the group consisting of methylripariochromene A (6-acetyl-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), acetovanillochromene (6-acetyl-8-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene), and orthochromene A (6-(1-hydroxyethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene).

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8. A hair-restoring method comprising the step of contacting an effective amount of a hair growth stimulant containing at least one chromene compound represented by  
5 Structural Formula (1) as an active ingredient with hair tissue:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each independently -H, -OH, or -OR wherein R  
is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group; R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently -H, or a C<sub>1-4</sub>  
10 4 alkyl group; R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> are each independently -H, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl  
group, or an optionally substituted phenyl group; and X is -  
CH(OH)R<sub>7</sub>, or -C(=O)R<sub>7</sub> wherein R<sub>7</sub> is a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group or an  
optionally substituted phenyl group.